

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A source of light of a spectrum of wavelengths extending over more than 300 nm, the source comprising:
a laser, which operates at or near its fundamental wavelength and produces pulses of a duration longer than 0.5 ns; ~~[[,]]~~ and
a micro-structured optical fiber arranged to guide the pulses,
wherein the light is generated by the pulses in the fiber, in which the micro-structured fiber ~~has~~ includes a core having a diameter greater than 4 microns, ~~and wherein the micro-structured optical fiber is arranged to support propagation of the light in a single transverse mode at all wavelengths in the spectrum of wavelengths.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in which~~ wherein the laser is a monolithic laser.

23. (Currently Amended) A The source as claimed in claim 22, ~~in which~~ wherein the monolithic laser is a microchip laser.

24. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the pulses of light are of a duration of more than 1 ns.

25. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the pulses have a peak power of less than 50 KW.

26. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the pulses have a peak power and interact with the fiber over a length
of the fiber such that the peak power times the interaction length is less than 2 kWm.

27. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the spectrum extends over more than 500 nm.

28. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the fundamental wavelength is longer than 600 nm.

29. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the fundamental wavelength is ~~in the range~~ ranges from about 1000
nm to 1100 nm.

30. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
which wherein the micro-structured optical fiber has a zero dispersion wavelength λ_0
and the operating wavelength of the laser is less than the zero dispersion
wavelength.

31. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, in which wherein the micro-structured optical fiber has a zero dispersion wavelength λ_0 and the operating wavelength of the laser is greater than the zero dispersion wavelength.

32. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, in which wherein the micro-structured optical fiber has a zero dispersion wavelength between 1000 nm and 1100 nm.

33. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, in which wherein the micro-structured optical fiber is arranged to support propagation of the pulses in a single transverse mode.

34. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, in which wherein the micro-structured optical fiber is arranged to support propagation of light at all wavelengths in a single transverse mode.

35. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, in which wherein the micro-structured fiber has a hole-to-hole pitch greater than 2.5 microns, such as greater than 2.7 microns, such as greater than 2.9 microns.

36. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
~~which~~ wherein the micro-structured fiber ~~has~~ includes a core having a diameter
greater than 4.5 microns.

37. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
~~which~~ wherein the micro-structured fiber ~~has~~ includes a cladding region comprising
an array of holes of diameter d and hole-to-hole pitch Λ , in which d/Λ is less than 0.7.

38. (Currently Amended) A-The source as claimed in claim 21, ~~in~~
~~which~~ wherein the micro-structured fiber ~~has~~ includes an effective nonlinear area
greater than $8 \mu\text{m}^2$.

39. (Currently Amended) A-The source of light of a spectrum of
wavelengths extending over more than 300 nm, the source comprising:
a laser, which operates at or near its fundamental wavelength in the range
1000 nm to 1100 nm and produces pulses of a duration longer than 0.5 ns; ~~[[,]]~~ and
a micro-structured optical fiber arranged to guide the pulses,
wherein the light is generated by the pulses in the fiber, and ~~in which~~ the
micro-structured optical fiber has a zero dispersion wavelength between 1000 nm
and 1100 nm, ~~and is arranged to support propagation of the light in a single~~
~~transverse mode at all wavelengths in the spectrum of wavelengths.~~

40. (Currently Amended) A method of generating light of a spectrum
of wavelengths extending over 300 nm, the method comprising:

operating a monolithic laser at or near its fundamental wavelength to provide pulses of light of a duration longer than 0.5 ns; and

guiding the pulses in a micro-structured optical fiber, which is arranged to have a core with having a diameter greater than 4 microns ~~and to support propagation of the light in a single transverse mode at all wavelengths in the spectrum of wavelengths.~~